

***More at Four* Pre-Kindergarten Program**

Recommended Strategies for Recruiting and Identifying At-Risk Children and Their Families

The **County/Region *More at Four* Committee** collaborates to develop a coherent plan to identify and recruit at-risk children and their families, utilizing existing agencies and resources to the extent possible. The following specific strategies are examples to consider in identifying at-risk children. They may also be useful to collect, document, and analyze need data about the local community's at-risk child population and to facilitate future planning and services for at-risk children and their families.

- Produce and disseminate written multi-lingual information about the program through appropriate points of contact as defined by the community. Examples of these are:
 1. Work First
 2. WIC
 3. Subsidized housing
 4. Medicaid
 5. SSI
 6. Faith-based organizations, church/temple bulletins
 7. Ethnic/cultural organizations
 8. Family resource centers
 9. Local public health centers
 10. Local mental health centers
 11. Pediatricians' offices
 12. Developmental Evaluation Centers
 13. Child care facilities
 14. Child care resource and referral agencies
 15. Domestic Violence Shelters
 16. Family Courts
 17. Local interagency coordinating councils
 18. Local housing authority agencies
 19. Schools
 20. Local interagency councils
 21. Parks and recreation centers
 22. Neighborhood and community centers
- Identify and collaborate with leadership in local community groups (especially ethnic-specific groups) and faith-based organizations that families trust to help publicize, explain, and recruit for the *More at Four* program.
- Create an awareness of the *More at Four* Pre-K program with eligibility/intake workers and child welfare social workers in the county Department of Social Services so that they can pass information on to families
- Implement a diverse, multilingual, multimedia public awareness campaign
- Make better use of the high-risk infant-screening tool developed by the public health system. Make this data more readily available to schools and social service agencies to actively identify those at-risk. Do follow-up telephone calls from this list three years after birth.

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- Domestic violence shelters are effective and efficient locations to find and serve a good portion of our most vulnerable children. Research has demonstrated that children who come to domestic violence shelters are the most at-risk. There are now domestic violence programs in almost 100 counties that receive state funding.
- Work with children from families with a parent involved in the criminal justice system. These families have many stressors that could make these children at risk. The criminal justice system already has several monitoring systems in place that could be utilized as an intervention opportunity for the children.
- Work with children who come with their families to emergency rooms. Whether they are a victim, a witness or just accompanying a parent, loved one or friend who has been a victim of violence, these children can be very vulnerable and possibly dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.
- Target all children who live in geographic areas assigned to low performing schools.
- Identify and target children who are in the foster care system.